

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TGEN, UR, US

SUBJECT: US-USSR S&T AGREEMENT: S&T INFORMATION 01.10

REF: STATE 272793

1. REQUEST EMBASSY TRANSMIT FOLLOWING FROM BURCHINAL TO
ARUTYUNOV WITH COPY TO AYKAZYAN:

2. 01.10 - NOVEMBER 24, 1976

ENG. NIKOLAY B. ARUTYUNOV

HEAD, DIRECTORATE FOR SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL INFORMATION
AND DISSEMINATION

STATE COMMITTEE FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
MOSCOW

DEAR ENG. ARUTYUNOV:

MR. AYKAZYAN RECENTLY SUGGESTED TO MR. ROOT THAT EACH
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WORKING GROUP PREPARE A JOINT REPORT FOR SUBMISSION TO

THE JOINT COMMISSION IN ADVANCE OF ITS NEXT MEETING, SCHEDULED FOR FEBRUARY 2. THEY SUGGESTED THAT THE U.S. SIDE PREPARE THE FIRST DRAFT OF THE REPORT FROM OUR WORKING GROUP. SUCH A DRAFT IS ENCLOSED WITH THIS LETTER FOR YOUR REVIEW.

THE FOLLOWING BACKGROUND CONSIDERATIONS HAVE LED TO THE RECOMMENDATIONS PROPOSED IN THE DRAFT:

WITH RESPECT TO THE PROJECT ON A COMMON COMMUNICATIONS FORMAT, WE ARE ENCOURAGED BY PROGRESS TO DATE AND SUGGEST THAT WE TRY TO REACH AGREEMENT ON A DRAFT FORMAT WITHIN APPROXIMATELY ONE YEAR. FOLLOWING OUR AGREEMENT, WE MAY WISH TO ARRANGE FOR TRANSFER OF THIS ACTIVITY TO AN INTERNATIONAL FORUM SUCH AS UNISIST.

WITH RESPECT TO THE PROJECT ON FORECASTING AND COST/BENEFITS, WE HAVE BEEN PLEASED WITH ACCOMPLISHMENTS TO DATE. WHILE WE COULD HOPE FOR AND COULD PROBABLY OBTAIN STILL MORE BENEFITS IF THE PROJECT WERE CONTINUED, THE US SIDE BELIEVES THAT THIS PROJECT IS LESS SUSCEPTIBLE TO EVENTUAL PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS AND THEREFORE SHOULD BE DECLARED COMPLETED AS PART OF THE PROCESS OF SHARPENING THE FOCUS OF OUR WORK AND CONCENTRATING OUR ENERGIES IN OTHER AREAS, SUCH AS DEVELOPMENT OF A COMMON COMMUNICATIONS FORMAT.

I LOOK FORWARD TO RECEIVING YOUR COMMENTS ON THE ENCLOSED DRAFT AND SUGGEST YOU FORWARD THEM TO OUR EMBASSY IN MOSCOW, FROM WHERE THEY CAN BE TELEGRAPHED TO ME IN ORDER TO SAVE TRANSMITTAL TIME.

SINCERELY,

LEE G. BURCHINAL
U.S. CHAIRMAN, WORKING GROUP ON SCIENTIFIC AND
TECHNICAL INFORMATION

ENCLOSURE

DRAFT REPORT OF JOINT WORKING GROUP ON SCIENTIFIC AND
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TECHNICAL INFORMATION TO THE JOINT COMMISSION

THE JOINT COMMISSION, AT ITS FIRST MEETING IN MARCH 1973, APPROVED PLANS FOR A US-USSR SYMPOSIUM ON SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL INFORMATION. AT ITS SECOND MEETING IN NOVEMBER 1973, THE COMMISSION EXAMINED THE REPORT ON THIS SYMPOSIUM AND CREATED A JOINT WORKING GROUP ON SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL INFORMATION TO COOPERATE IN THE FOLLOWING

TOPICS:

1. DEVELOPMENT AND TESTING OF A COMMON COMMUNICATIONS
FORMAT FOR EXCHANGE OF BIBLIOGRAPHIC DATA.

2. IMPROVEMENT IN METHODS FOR FORECASTING INFORMATION
REQUIREMENTS AND SERVICES.

3. DEVELOPMENT OF MEANS FOR ESTIMATING THE COST/BENEFIT
RETURNS OF INFORMATION SERVICES.

AT ITS FOURTH MEETING IN OCTOBER 1975, THE COMMISSION
SUGGESTED A MERGING, WHEN APPROPRIATE, OF THE SECOND
AND THIRD TOPICS. THIS WAS DONE.

COMMON COMMUNICATIONS FORMAT

THE EXCHANGE OF BIBLIOGRAPHIC DATA IN MACHINE READABLE
FORM BETWEEN THE U.S. AND THE U.S.S.R., THE TWO LARGEST
PRODUCERS OF SUCH INFORMATION, WOULD IMPROVE THE TIMELI-
NESS AND ACCURACY OF BIBLIOGRAPHIC DATA FILES AND REDUCE
DUPLICATE PROCESSING OF THE SAME LITERATURE. THE JOINT
PROJECT GROUP HAS DEVELOPED A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF
THE TECHNICAL AND ORGANIZATION DIFFICULTIES INHERENT IN
THE DEVELOPMENT OF A COMMON FORMAT FOR THE EXCHANGE OF
BIBLIOGRAPHIC DATA. CANDID DISCUSSION OF PROBLEMS
EXPERIENCED IN ATTEMPTING TO EXPERIMENT WITH COMPUTER
TAPES OF BIBLIOGRAPHIC RECORDS WHICH WERE EXCHANGED HAS
PAVED THE WAY FOR A MORE EFFECTIVE EXCHANGE OF IMPROVED
FORMAT MATERIALS AND FOR PRACTICAL EXPERIMENTATION WITH
AND TESTING OF THE FORMAT. AFTER COMPLETION OF THIS
FINAL STAGE, CONSIDERATION SHOULD BE GIVEN TO MOVING THE
EFFORT INTO A MULTILATERAL FORUM SUCH AS UNESCO'S UNISIST
PROGRAM.

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FORECASTING INFORMATION NEEDS AND COST BENEFIT ANALYSES

BOTH THE U.S. AND THE USSR HAVE EXPERIMENTED WITH
DIFFERENT TECHNIQUES TO FORECAST INFORMATION NEEDS AND
TO ESTIMATE COSTS AND BENEFITS. THE 1973 SYMPOSIUM
PERMITTED EACH SIDE TO DEVELOP A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF
THE OTHER'S CAPABILITIES AND DIRECTIONS IN GENERAL.
PARTICIPANTS AT A JUNE 1975 SYMPOSIUM ON COSTS AND
BENEFITS GAINED BETTER INSIGHT INTO PROCEDURES AND THE
DECISION-MAKING PROCESS IN EACH COUNTRY IN THE GENERAL
AREA OF INFORMATION SUPPLY. AN OCTOBER 1975 SYMPOSIUM
ON FORECASTING INFORMATION REQUIREMENTS FACILITATED
IDENTIFICATION OF COMMON SCIENTIFIC INTERESTS. ALTHOUGH
BOTH THE FORECASTING AND COST BENEFIT EFFORTS HAVE BEEN

MERGED, THEIR CONTINUATION DOES NOT APPEAR LIKELY TO YIELD RESULTS FOR IMMEDIATE PRACTICAL APPLICATION OR METHODOLOGICAL IMPROVEMENT.

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SUMMARY

THE COOPERATIVE EFFORT TOWARDS DEVELOPMENT OF A COMMON COMMUNICATIONS FORMAT FOR THE EXCHANGE OF BIBLIOGRAPHIC DATA HAS PAVED THE WAY FOR A MORE EFFECTIVE EXCHANGE OF IMPROVED MATERIALS. PRIORITY TASKS IN THE AREA OF FORECASTING INFORMATION REQUIREMENTS AND ESTIMATING COSTS AND BENEFITS OF INFORMATION SERVICES HAVE BEEN SATISFACTORILY COMPLETED.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR JOINT COMMISSION ACTION

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE COMMISSION INSTRUCT THE WORKING GROUP TO ESTABLISH A DATE FOR THE ORDERLY TRANSFER TO AN INTERNATIONAL FORUM OF THE PROJECT ON DEVELOPMENT AND TESTING OF A COMMON COMMUNICATIONS FORMAT FOR EXCHANGE OF COMPUTERIZED BIBLIOGRAPHIC DATA.

IT IS FURTHER RECOMMENDED THAT THE COMMISSION APPROVE THE SATISFACTORY COMPLETION OF THE PROJECT ON IMPROVEMENT IN METHODS FOR FORECASTING INFORMATION REQUIREMENTS
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AND SERVICES AND DEVELOPMENT OF MEANS FOR ESTIMATING THE COST/BENEFIT RETURNS OF INFORMATION SERVICES. KISSINGER

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